

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 102
By Womack

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Nelson Smotherman on his selection as a member of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, each year the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, after tough competition, names a select group of coaches, administrators, officials and contributors to receive the greatest honor a Tennessee athletic figure can receive, inclusion into the prestigious TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, this year, the TSSAA decided to specially recognize the tremendous contribution made to their group by Nelson Smotherman, choosing him to be a member of the TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, a native of Murfreesboro and graduate of Murfreesboro Central High School, Mr. Smotherman, is affectionately known as the "record guru for Tennessee high school athletics"; and

WHEREAS, after serving his country bravely for three years in the United States Army, Mr. Smotherman was a highly regarded employee of the United States Postal Service for thirty-one years prior to his retirement; and

WHEREAS, his lifelong love of sports and statistics started when he was a high school freshman in the 1950s and began doing statistics for WGNS radio, with Ray Duffy and John

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Hood; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s, he developed and interest in sports records and the history of sports in Murfreesboro, while doing statistics for the late Monte Hale, sports announcer at WGNS; and

WHEREAS, this interest resulted in his compiling an informative, and brilliantly researched history of Murfreesboro Central High School football; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smotherman began compiling statistics for all games in the Boys' State Basketball Tournament in 1960 and the Girls' State Basketball Tournament in 1961; and

WHEREAS, while diligently working in these tournaments, his love of records and statistics made him see the need to compile the State Tournament records, dating back to the beginning of the tournament in 1921; and

WHEREAS, he cheerfully undertook this herculean effort and in 1991 his hard work resulted in the publication of the TSSAA State Record Book; and

WHEREAS, he continues his important work today, compiling statistics on all TSSAA sports, through his work with WAPB radio and the TSSAA State Tournament Network; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to honor and commend Nelson Smotherman for the tremendous contribution he has made to Tennessee high school athletics; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we congratulate Nelson Smotherman for his fine work and wish him well in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.